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Scared of the New Media World? Fear Not – Help Is on the Way

Joel Pett for Knight Foundation



Pulitzer Prize-winner Joel Pett, who drew this cartoon for Knight Foundation, was himself a self-proclaimed “resister of technology.” How did he change? Details on page 13.

The Knight New Media Center in California has a mission: to make the marriage of journalism and technology a happy one.

By Larry Meyer for News@Knight

SEATTLE – As editorial director and managing editor of Yahoo! Inc., Bill Gannon has network-wide editorial responsibilities in front-page news, product development, content programming, editorial strategy and policy.

His staff of news editors operating out of the Yahoo! Media Group offices in Santa Monica, Calif., selects the news headlines that appear on the front pages of Yahoo! and My Yahoo! and compiles news pages for millions of users.

But Gannon knows the other side, too, the mainstream media side, where he spent 15 years as a newspaper reporter covering a range of local, national and

international assignments before heading off to Stanford University as a Knight Fellow in 1997. After returning, he eventually left what he calls “the offline world” for the web in 2000.

To help America’s journalists adapt to rapid technological change, and to advance news values in the digital age, Knight Foundation and its West Coast funding partners came here in late April to launch the Knight New Media Center during the annual convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

“Almost every week for the last few years the phone rings or an e-mail arrives from yet another friend or a former colleague in print or television news eager to explore the online world,” said Gannon, who serves on the center’s board of advisers. “And my own team of editors at Yahoo! is always looking for ways to sharpen their new media skills.

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After the Storm: Rebuilding a Neighborhood, One Voice at a Time

With local groups matching Knight’s funding, partners from Biloxi and beyond are working together to revive the city’s oldest neighborhood.

By Sharon Moshavi for News@Knight

How do you rebuild a neighborhood devastated by Hurricane Katrina and balance the needs for affordable housing and decent jobs with vital economic interests? With careful planning, and by assuring that everyone has a say in how it gets done.

That’s the thinking behind Knight Foundation’s \$250,000 investment to prepare an action plan and strategy to guide the redevelopment of East Biloxi – the city’s oldest, most culturally diverse and poorest neighborhood.

Continuing its work to not simply rebuild Biloxi and the Gulf Coast communities but to re-envision them, Knight is supporting a collaborative effort of the Mississippi Development Authority, the city of Biloxi, and Biloxi residents and

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A University Leverages Money into More Money

Knight's original \$2.5 million investment in an Akron neighborhood has attracted hundreds of millions of dollars more.

By Betty Lin-Fisher for News@Knight

AKRON – Not too long ago, the 40-block area around the University of Akron was a picture of urban blight: abandoned buildings, neglected student rental units and vacant lots. But in a few short years, that picture has changed focus.

Now, the efforts of the University Park Alliance, the group born in 2001 to revitalize the neighborhood around the university, are reaching critical mass. The catalyst for that change? Knight Foundation's \$2.5 million investment five years ago, which helped attract hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment.

A few examples:

- A \$32 million retail and upscale residential development named Spicer Village is scheduled to break ground by this summer.
- Summa Health System is investing \$150 million in construction and equipment on its East Market Street campus, on one edge of the alliance area.
- A new \$32 million University of Akron residence hall with retail space on the ground floor is under construction.
- A \$1.3 million McDonald's was built after the former location was vacated in a land swap that could make room for a University of Akron football stadium.
- The University Park Alliance Development Corp., the alliance's non-profit development group, opened a community neighborhood center where it offers programs in family literacy, home ownership and fair housing assistance.
- Community projects are attracting a growing number of volunteers; on a recent service day, for example, 350 people helped out, up from 20 five years ago.

The University Park Alliance did not exist until University of Akron President Luis Proenza, the driving force behind the alliance, approached Knight Foundation about investing and was awarded the grant. "Without those initial funds, none of this



Bruce Zake for Knight Foundation

University of Akron President Luis Proenza, with drawings of the vital neighborhood he's working to build. "There is no question that we are at ... a tipping point," he said.

would be happening," said Ken Stapleton, executive director of the alliance.

"There is no question that we are at what we think is a tipping point," said Proenza. "This is really happening and it's going to be exciting and it's going to be big."

The alliance's original core partners were the university, Summa and the city of Akron. Over the years, more partners have joined, including the Greater Akron Chamber, the Akron Public Schools, the Beacon Journal and the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Knight's grant in Akron is one of several "town-gown" grants the foundation has made in recent years recognizing the key role colleges and universities play in a community's economy and quality of life. Similar Knight-funded projects include the Beall's Hill redevelopment near Mercer University in Macon, a \$1 million grant to Florida State University in Tallahassee for a performing arts center, and redevelopment efforts involving the University of Miami and the University of Pennsylvania.

Said Monty Miller, president of ASW Properties Ltd., which is developing 40 townhomes ranging from \$169,000 to \$260,000 in Spicer Village: "We bought into the notion that the area surrounding the university is one that is really worthy of a transformational redevelopment."

Proenza said there are at least two other major projects of similar scale in the works. He estimates that within the first five years, the alliance will have catalyzed investments around the university to the tune of \$200 million.

The alliance is actively engaging the university and residential communities with each other. Alliance director Stapleton points to university athletes and art students working with school-age children, to community members talking with school officials about rebuilding their local elementary school, and to university fraternities and sororities partnering with neighborhood watch groups.

"Those are all good indicators of progress and momentum toward a stronger community from the people side and stronger investor confidence from the real estate and business side," Stapleton said.

The collaboration among all of the partners has been rewarding, said Thomas J. Strauss, Summa's president and chief executive and an original alliance member. "The potential of the University Park area cannot be ignored, nor can its impact on the continued growth and success of the entire city," he said. **LF**

Betty Lin-Fisher is a consumer reporter and columnist for the Akron Beacon Journal.

MIAMI

Courtesy of Miami International Film Festival



Vida y Color (Life in Color) was the Knight Grand Jury Prize winner for best Ibero-American dramatic feature. From left, director Santiago Tabernerro, wife Paz Sufrategui and producer Loris Omedes.

Knights... Camera, Action

Thanks to Miami's distinctive geographical and cultural position, the Miami International Film Festival has become a premier venue for exhibiting international and U.S. films, especially those in Spanish and Portuguese. This year, Knight Foundation contributed \$75,000 to create the Knight Grand Jury Prizes – \$25,000 awards for each of the three main competition categories. As some of the highest cash awards of any film festival in North America, the incentives bring more visibility to the festival, validate exhibited films' quality and reward filmmakers working on limited budgets.

"The increased visibility of three \$25,000 Knight Grand Jury Prizes brought very positive attention to the festival as was evidenced by the buzz generated within the national and international film and filmmakers world. That will help ensure a higher quality of submitted films, which will attract new and greater audiences," said Nicole Guillemet, the festival's director.

This past March, at the 23rd Annual Miami International Film Festival, Knight Grand Jury Prizes were awarded to: *En el Hoyo (In the Pit)*, directed by Mexican Juan Carlos Rufo, for best documentary; co-winners *Sauf le Respect Que Je Vous Dois (Burnt*

Out), by French director Fabienne Godet, and *Anklaget (Accused)*, by Danish director Jacob Thuesen, for best world dramatic feature; and *Vida y Color* (see above).

This year, more than 67,000 people attended the festival.

Build It and They Will Come

By year's end, construction of 123 units of affordable housing in downtown Gary will be complete and the units will be occupied by those who need it most. That's thanks to the efficient work of Urban Strategies Inc., a nonprofit corporation that helps communities build safe neighborhoods and schools.

Early last year, Knight Foundation invested \$76,500 in Urban Strategies for Gary's Horace Mann HOPE VI housing development, which aims to provide much-needed affordable housing as well as revitalize the downtown area. Of the units in the Horace Mann project, nearly three-quarters will be for families making less than 60 percent of the area median income, with nearly half of those units guaranteed for families displaced by demolished public housing.

Urban Strategies is working with McCormack Baron Salazar, a for-

Kids Help Build a Place For Families to Go

The Bellefonte Family Resource Center was only a fantasy until the youth it intended to inspire made it a reality. Because the space provided for the center was in serious need of renovation, high school students pitched in to clean the facility by tearing up carpet, taking down ceiling tiles, patching holes, painting and replanting.

Bellefonte Borough is the second-largest community in Centre County, but one-third of Bellefonte families with children under age 5 live in poverty. In 2003, a report by the Prevention Research Center at Penn State University recommended that Centre County "would benefit from a family center where information about and access to medical, social and economic assistance services could be centralized."

After a meeting of three key players – the Bellefonte Family YMCA, which promised administration, the Bellefonte Area School District, which promised a home, and Knight

Foundation, which promised initial funding – a family center began to take shape.

After community networking, planning and serious renovation, the Bellefonte Family Resource Center opened this January with a fitting slogan: "Empowering our families, empowering our communities." By coordinating services under one roof, families are able to access the resources they need more easily. Today, the center houses a toy lending library, a parent resource library and adult-education workshops on child development, health and parenting issues.

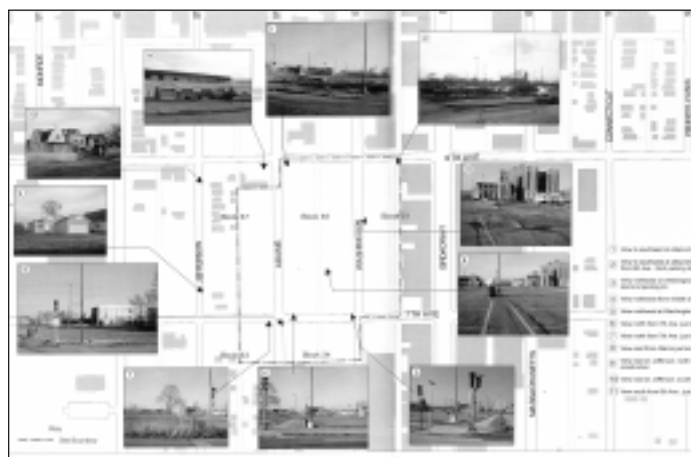
STATE COLLEGE



Courtesy of Bellefonte Center

The Bellefonte Family Resource Center will be a home away from home.

GARY



Plans for the Horace Mann development project, which will help revitalize downtown Gary.

profit residential developer to plan and build the project. McCormack Baron is a leading developer working on large-scale projects in mixed-income urban neighborhoods. The site's close proximity to a Knight-

funded YMCA means residents will have easy access to the services offered there. The housing also puts residents within a 10-minute drive of 14 of Gary's largest employers.

Sunshine Week Proves Open Government Is for Everybody

The campaign against government secrecy expanded to reach the media, classrooms, the public and politicians.

By Debra Gersh Hernandez for News@Knight

Confirming that open government is for everyone, not just journalists, the American Society of Newspaper Editors led the second annual Sunshine Week in March to new partnerships with non-journalism groups and saw innovative coverage from media participants.

With a new \$200,000 investment from Knight Foundation supporting this second national effort, Sunshine Week institutionalized the nationwide awareness of the importance of open government. The initiative moved from news pages to classrooms, libraries, community forums and blogs. It registered large on lawmakers' radar, reminding them that the public no longer will sit idly by while information is locked away unnecessarily.

The Sunshine Week offerings included a nationally broadcast forum on government secrecy, followed by regional programs across the country; thousands of print, broadcast and online news and opinion pieces; public opinion surveys and Freedom of Information audits; English- and Spanish-language print and broadcast ads; podcasts; and even a song, "The Open Records Blues."

The public reminded lawmakers that locking away information is not acceptable.

One of the new Sunshine Week partners was the League of Women Voters, which used a grant from Knight Foundation to help fund Sunshine Week events in 14 cities across the country, and also developed a guidebook for all its chapters to help them host their own community discussions on open government.

"Our members responded enthusiastically to the opportunity and our resource guide gave local leagues the tools to host their own events during Sunshine Week



Muncie, Ind., high school students created a podcast discussing their fight for access to school records.

and throughout the year," said Executive Director Nancy Tate.

The league joined ASNE/Sunshine Week – and fellow Knight grantees the Coalition of Journalists for Open Government, National Freedom of Information Coalition, Open The Government and several library groups – in hosting the discussion about government secrecy at the federal and state levels. The forum was broadcast from the National Press Club in Washington to 47 sites around the nation via satellite.

Sunshine Week also saw its first podcasts, created by Knight grantee J-Ideas at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. The podcasts were designed specifically for young people; topics included a discussion with high school editors and their adviser who had waged a fight for school information.

Many news media web sites created special pages for Sunshine Week that featured links to open government sites, government agencies' FOI offices, information-request letter generators and more.


There was also a good deal of broadcast coverage, in both local markets and nationally. On XM Radio, Sunshine Week Honorary Chairman and former Knight Foundation President Hodding Carter III was a guest on *The Bob Edwards Show*. The PBS program *Now*, another Knight grantee, ran a special hour-long program looking at the issue

of government secrecy, and produced a special web page tying into the program.

Sunshine Week's core support came from newspapers across the nation. Participants came in all sizes, from USA Today to the Wake Weekly in Wake Forest, N.C., and many, many in between. They produced

compelling news and feature stories, hard-hitting editorials and opinion columns, cartoons, graphics, public events and more that brought the issue of government accountability to the public that holds it accountable.

One of the most innovative efforts came from the San Jose Mercury News, which not only called for passage of a local Sunshine Law, but also proposed a model law based on the best of what other cities had done. Though the paper's proposal was originally dismissed by the outgoing mayor as "nonsense," the City Council supported the idea with only the mayor voting "no." Now, San Jose is close to having its own Sunshine Law.

The planning for Sunshine Week 2007 – March 11-17 – has begun. The team is brainstorming with online leaders about creating early excitement and building a presence on the web leading up to the week. Efforts are being made to help grow Sunshine Week in areas such as Spanish-language media, colleges and universities, coordinator recruitment, and still greater community outreach. The goal is to ensure that the spotlight on open government continues to shine all year, culminating in a brilliant Sunshine Week. For more, visit www.sunshineweek.org. 

Debra Gersh Hernandez is the Arlington, Va.-based coordinator of Sunshine Week.

Courtesy of National Security Archive



Here's an example of a notice that a document has been reclassified.

National Security Archive Reveals Secret Program

The National Security Archive, a Knight grantee, has uncovered a secret program by the CIA and other federal agencies to take back historical documents released long ago to the public.

The archive's February revelation, that 55,000 pages of documents have been "reclassified" since 1999, was widely reported, in The New York Times, National Public Radio and elsewhere.

Archive director Tom Blanton argues that this "extreme" federal secrecy has gone beyond the bounds required for national security, with documents in question apparently reclassified simply because they revealed embarrassing government mistakes.

One example: excerpts of an Oct.

12, 1950, memo from the CIA director to President Harry S. Truman. The CIA said that while it was possible the Chinese would intervene in the Korea War, "a consideration of all known factors leads to the conclusion that barring a Soviet decision for global war, such action is not probable in 1950."

Yet China invaded Korea on Nov. 26, a month after the CIA said it probably would not.

The National Security Archive uses the national Freedom of Information Act to secure public documents for public discussion and debate.

Matthew Aid, the report's author and a visiting fellow at the archive, discovered the secret reclassification program through research at the National Archives and Records Administration. Agencies participating in the secret program include the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Defense Department, the military services and the Department of Justice.

The archive and three other groups complained about the reclassification program to the U.S. government's Information Security Oversight Office. Allen Weinstein, archivist of the United States, suspended reclassification efforts on March 2 until the matter could be investigated.

For more, go to: www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv.

Grant Pushes Serbian Journalists to Dig Harder

An experimental project has the potential to improve journalism throughout Serbia by encouraging its journalists to report on government wrongdoing.

A \$50,000 Knight grant to the Jefferson Institute will support a project that will help Serbian journalists use a new digital archive to write investigative stories about abuses of power by the Serbian military under the late Slobodan Milosevic.

The Jefferson Institute is helping the Ministry of Defense digitize key parts of the Serbian military archive from 1999 and create a searchable database. The institute will train Serbian journalists to use it, with the help of Investigative Reporters

and Editors.

Milosevic, the former Serbian president whose United Nations trial ended after he was found dead March 11, is alleged to have incited mass murder under the banner of "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo.

"This project becomes even more important with the death of Milosevic," said Jefferson Institute President Aaron Presnall. "There will be no verdict, so critical objective analysis of his wartime record falls entirely on the shoulders of journalists and historians. The first, most important research tool of a journalist covering war crimes is a well preserved, easily accessible archive."

For more on the institute, go to: www.jeffersoninst.org.

PRESS FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Americas Center Increases Impact

The Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas has trained nearly 3,500 journalists, seven times the number anticipated when the center was created four years ago.

"In this period of consolidation of democracy in Latin America, journalists have developed a huge appetite for training and professional development," said Rosental Alves, Knight Chair in International Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin who directs the Knight Center.

Alves said the center has emphasized creating local journalism groups that will permanently work to improve journalism standards and defend press freedom. It has helped start or strengthen training and press freedom groups in eight countries -

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru.

In Brazil, 60 journalists at a 2002 training workshop formed an investigative reporting group called Abraji. A year later, Abraji won Brazil's prestigious Esso Journalism Prize for Best Contribution to the Press.

In Peru, the Knight Center helped create the Peruvian Provincial Journalists Network. The group recently organized a seminar in Iquitos in the Amazon jungle region. Some journalists had to travel two days by boat on the Amazon River to get there. "A couple of them said that was the first seminar they had ever taken on journalism," Alves said.

For more, go to: www.knightcenter.utexas.edu.

Impunity Project Helps Double Jail Sentences

The number of jail sentences in the Americas has more than doubled because of the Inter American Press Association's fight against the murder of journalists in the region.

From 1995 to 2000, there were 19 sentences in 11 cases of slain journalists. Since 2000, there have been 44 sentences in 46 cases.

IAPA Press Freedom director Ricardo Trotti credited the increase to the work of the Rapid Response Unit. The unit was created in 2000 as part of a Knight grant for IAPA's Impunity Project. The unit, made up of four journalists, conducts prompt, on-site investigations into new cases. These investigations put pressure on the authorities to solve the crimes.

What democratic societies need, said IAPA president Diana Daniels, is a "free and independent press in which reporters can investigate and report the news without fear of intimidation, kidnapping, bodily harm or death."

In Mexico alone, nine journalists have been killed since 2004, largely because of drug cartels. On April 3,



Mexican journalist Jesús Blancomelas, who survived an attempt on his life, speaks at a meeting of newspaper publishers.

more than 100 Mexican newspapers and U.S.-based Spanish-language publications published the first report by a group called Project Phoenix, on the April 2005 disappearance of Alfredo Jiménez Mota, 26, who covered drug trafficking for El Imparcial.

Project Phoenix, a team of eight investigative reporters, was formed by more than 40 newspaper publishers who signed a declaration of support last August for journalists who face violence each day.

The report named and described Sonora state families tied to drug trafficking and said that Jiménez's likely abductor was Raúl Enriquez Parra, an alleged smuggler whose body was found last November after being thrown from a plane.

For more, watch an audio slide show at www.knightfdn.org/annual.

Courtesy of El Imparcial

A Message from Millions of Immigrants: Tomorrow We Vote

Grassroot groups put a spotlight on the path to citizenship.

By Phyllis Shapiro for News@Knight

"Somos America, We Are America," read the banners and posters in red, white and blue. "Today We March, Tomorrow We Vote."

Those powerful messages were clear, coordinated and positive, as hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their supporters in communities across the country stepped forth this spring, speaking up for recognition, supporting fair legislation and seeking the chance to be welcomed in the country they call home.

Knight Foundation's \$6 million American Dream Fund has worked to support a network of grassroots groups, and that work is paying off, according to Julie K. Kohler, interim director of the foundation's National Venture Fund.

"Both nationally and on a local level, there's a wealth of talent and commitment focused on helping this large influx of immigrants into cities across America move legally from the fringes into mainstream society. The initiative we launched last year is enabling local groups in Knight communities to learn from each other, cooperate and connect with national organizations and leaders," Kohler said.

The evidence:

- In St. Paul, more than 30,000 people flocked to the state Capitol for a rally on April 9. The key organizers were the Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network, a statewide advocacy organization and ISAIAH, a multi-ethnic, multi-issue community coalition. The march, described by The St. Paul Pioneer-Press as a "peaceful family affair," was among the largest gatherings in state history.

- In Charlotte, a March 25 rally drew 7,000 participants, the community's largest gathering since the days of the civil rights movement. At the core of the organizing was the Latin American Coalition, Charlotte's oldest and largest Hispanic service agency.

- And in Columbia, the Coalition for New South Carolinians, a small, emerg-



Immigrants, like those who demonstrated at this rally in Homestead, Fla., say they want to be a part of civic life in America.

ing agency, organized a successful rally April 10 at the State House. Nearly 5,000 people participated, three or four times the expected turnout.

All four local groups are among the 32 community organizations supported by grants from Knight Foundation's American Dream Fund. The fund was established last year, as part of Knight's \$13.5 million Immigrant Integration Initiative, to assist community efforts to welcome newcomers into American society by encouraging civic participation – English language skills, education and a path to citizenship.

Irma Santana, director of the Coalition for New South Carolinians, expressed a widely held sentiment:

"We also want to connect to the politicians to let them know we are here. I've been in this country 37 years and 23 years in South Carolina. I vote," Santana said.

Until recently, her group was an all-volunteer effort. Knight funding and, equally important, new connections Knight helped the group establish with national partners are helping build the coalition's effectiveness as an advocate for immigrants statewide.

The benefit of those connections was clear from a two-day meeting in Chicago in March of American Dream Fund grantees, other national funders and Knight's three major national partners in the initiative: the National Council of La Raza, National Immigration Forum and Center for Community Change.

Just a few days before the meeting,

Chicago was the scene of a huge immigration rally of as many as 300,000 people. That event inspired activists from other communities, among them Lexington. One month later, the Lexington Hispanic Association helped mobilize nearly 10,000 demonstrators for a rally at the courthouse steps.

"We would not have been moved to do this if not for our trip to Chicago and the inspiration we obtained there," said John Santana, the associa-

tion's executive director.

"Knight's Immigrant Integration Initiative and the work of our partner organizations have laid important groundwork in promoting this collaboration and building organizational capacity," said Kohler. "The scope and impact of the immigration rallies, and the clarity of their message, show that local activists have a real sense of belonging to a national movement. This effort is transforming our communities and our country."

Actions, of course, speak louder than words. Shortly after the April 10 rallies nationwide, a particularly moving event took place in Miami. In a series of mass naturalization ceremonies over the course of two days, 12,000 immigrants from more than 100 different countries became U.S. citizens. **IF**

TRAC IMMIGRATION PROJECT PROVIDES AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION

Immigration groups, government officials and the media have a new information resource to assist their work. A comprehensive immigration web site was launched recently by TRAC (the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse), a Knight-supported data gathering, research and distribution initiative associated with Syracuse University. The immigration site (www.trac.syr.edu/immigration) offers current data, reports, bulletins and other information about immigration issues, laws and news.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Social Entrepreneurs Create Action Tank for Change

"A program, think tank and civic campaign, rolled into one" is how Michael Brown describes an action tank. Brown, president and co-founder of the national youth service organization City Year, began using the "action tank" concept years ago as a way to articulate the powerful combination of theory, practice and civic engagement that can lead to societal change.

His idea dominated the discussion at "A Gathering of Leaders," the second annual convocation of social entrepreneurs and other creative thinkers organized by New Profit Inc., a Cambridge, Mass.-based organization and Knight grantee that helps innovative nonprofits scale up in size and impact.

With Knight support, New Profit and a team of partners are designing the Action Tank for Social Entrepreneurs, which will provide a platform and a set of tools and strategies for connecting the innovative thinking of social



Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta brainstorms about social entrepreneurship at a gathering of creative thinkers in New Paltz, N.Y.

entrepreneurs with public officials and other national policy makers.

At their retreat at Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, N.Y., social entrepreneurs brainstormed about the Action Tank with policy experts, elected officials, academics, business leaders and philanthropists. Among them were David Gergen of the Kennedy School of Government,

national policy guru Shirley Sagawa, Gene Sperling of the Council on Foreign Relations and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. U.S. News & World Report called the participants a "roster of all-stars in the social enterprise movement."

"Discussions across sector boundaries confirmed that government, business and philanthropic leaders

are hungry for the social innovators' ideas and ability to get results," said New Profit partner Kim Syman.

Since the Mohonk gathering, the New Profit team has begun conferring with leaders from across these sectors. They are examining the relationships – both real and potential – of social entrepreneurship with the nation's urgent public policy issues, such as education, workforce development and poverty reduction.

EDUCATION

Leaders Add Voices to Call For Civic Learning

Recent studies show that civic education, already excessively cut back in school systems, is being even further crowded out by federal requirements focused on reading and math. In response, The Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, a Knight grantee that works with organizations to change federal, state and local policies on civic learning, has launched a National Advisory Council.

This high-profile panel co-chaired by former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former Colorado Gov. Ray Romer, has issued a call to action, for "everyone who cares about the future of our democracy." The council advocates for federal requirements that give civic learning the attention it deserves as well as the involvement of parents, educators and leaders.

"The better people understand our history and system of government," says Romer, "the more likely they are to participate in civic life, and it enhances their success in college, work and their communities."

O'Connor warns: "Today a lack of knowledge about the distinct roles of the three branches of government, for example, has very real-world consequences."

Currently, the campaign works with over 40 organizations, supporting political advocacy and providing resources to further its mission. "That two such highly respected public servants ... have agreed to lead our efforts speaks to the urgency of restoring civic learning in our schools," said director of the campaign and former congressman David Skaggs.

Courtesy of AEI



Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) kicked off the launch of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project.

Project Works to Make Every Vote Count ... Really

For evidence that the U.S. voting system is far from perfect, consider these small, all-too-common examples: In 2002, flyers were distributed to Louisiana African-American communities claiming the polls would open three days after the actual elections were to be held. And in 2004, The Miami Herald reported that Florida's list of felons (who can't vote) included more than 2,000

perfectly eligible voters who were turned away from the polls in 2000 – in an election that was eventually decided by 537 votes.

"Every name should be registered, every machine should be working, every single vote should count," said Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, the keynote speaker at the inauguration of the joint American Enterprise Institute (AEI)-Brookings Institution Election Reform Project. "There shouldn't be any politics involved. ...

It's time that we got this done."

To help get it done, Knight has awarded Brookings and AEI \$1 million each over a four-year period to develop a bipartisan policy agenda that will advance election administration reform. The respected organizations will integrate research, develop an agenda for election reform, monitor implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and educate lawmakers about the developments.

The Election Reform Project's mission is to navigate the nation's cumbersome election policies with the long run in mind. "The 2002 and 2004 elections show that serious problems in the conduct of our elections remain," said Norman Ornstein, co-director of the project and a resident scholar at AEI. "By bringing the research and policy communities together, we hope to improve understanding of the law and inform additional policy making."

For more information, visit www.electionreformproject.org.

How the Museum Loan Network Changed The Art of Museums

The MLN reached into the basements of museums everywhere and came up with a whole new way of making art accessible. Most importantly, it broke down walls.

By Phyllis Shapiro for News@Knight

Big, bold ideas—transformative ideas—are not always complicated or obscure. Sometimes they emerge from the obvious.

That was the case in 1995 when Knight Foundation helped launch the Museum Loan Network, a decade-long initiative to increase public access to oft-hidden art works.

What began as the desire to connect more people with inaccessible museum collections has evolved into a network of institutions and a collaborative way of working that enables museums to serve audiences and communities in new ways. In the last 10 years, the MLN, hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has played a significant role in transforming museum practice throughout America.

The initiative began by creating a grant program to facilitate the loan of objects and to encourage partnerships, particularly among museums of different sizes, locations and areas of focus. In addition, to help identify pieces available for long-term loan, the MLN developed an online directory of museum objects.

The grant program and directory allowed art works and artifacts to be seen by new and different audiences and communities and provided opportunities for additional research and study. The initiative supported the loan of more than 4,500 art works and cultural objects from institutions large and small. Many—if not most—had not been displayed for a long time. Some had never been publicly shown before.

Over the course of the decade, the MLN awarded 380 grants totaling \$5.8

million to nearly 250 institutions in 51 states and territories. MLN grants supported surveys of more than a quarter million objects, 16,000 of which are now part of the online MLN Directory and available for loan. In addition to collections surveys, MLN grants also supported travel and exhibitions.

But the real sea change that occurred over time was a new network of relationships between big collections and small museums that broke down walls and wound up offering mutual benefit.

“We didn’t set out to change the museum field, or change the way people think. But we did,” said Gary Burger, former head of Knight’s national arts and culture program.

How it all began

The initiative was inspired by Knight Foundation’s former board chair, Lee Hills, a close friend and colleague of the Knight brothers and a trustee for 40 years until his death in 2000. In the early 1990s, Hills raised the concern that many of the nation’s major art museums have vast collections hidden in storage, almost never seen by the public.

In studying the idea, Knight reached out to The Pew Charitable Trusts, which had conducted a similar program in Philadelphia, its home community. In a new partnership, Knight and Pew committed funding and invested in a comprehensive planning effort to achieve their aim. Since 1995, Knight has invested more than \$6 million in the project.

Two individuals were key to shaping the network: veteran arts professional Lori Gross, who has served as the MLN’s director since its inception, and Stephen E. Weil, senior scholar emeritus at the Smithsonian Center for Museum Studies, who chaired the MLN advisory committee from 1995 until his death in 2005.

This spring the network marked its decade of work with the publication of



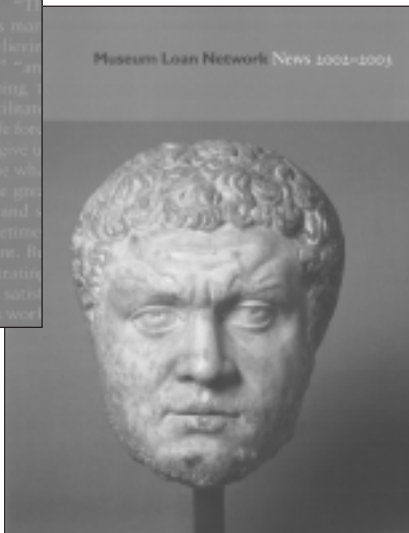
Over the past decade, the Museum Loan Network has both large and small, and has increased

Sharing Connections: A Decade of the Museum Loan Network, a 103-page book highlighting innovative MLN-supported exhibitions and collaborations that serves as a valuable resource for the museum field.

In Charlotte, for example, MLN grants allowed the Mint Museum of Art to borrow pre-Columbian objects from The Field Museum in Chicago, for a five-year exhibition of ancient Mesoamerican art. The loaned objects, including rare Aztec stone carvings from the 15th and early 16th centuries, had not been exhibited at The Field for more than 50 years.

According to E. Michael Whittington, former curator of pre-Columbian and African art at the Mint Museum and now executive director of the Monterey (California) Museum of Art, “The MLN speaks to the very heart and soul of the museum—to collect, preserve and interpret. MLN funds permitted me to document, assess and, ultimately, share every object in an extraordinary, yet unknown, ancient American collection. I know the incredible legacy that the MLN has provided to the American public.”

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has opened up communications between museums,
and public access to hidden works of art.

Taking Art Online

In Tallahassee, after researching the online MLN Directory, the staff at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science visited The Children's Museum of Indianapolis and the San Antonio Museum of Art to explore loans of African, Asian, Native American and Latin American art for a new exhibition gallery. MLN grants to the Tallahassee museum resulted in the loan of about 100 folk art objects from San Antonio. The loan was the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the two institutions.

"The MLN has created an alternative model for how museums can interact with one another around objects, and how they can interact with audiences around their permanent collections," said Marian Godfrey, head of Civic Life Initiatives and cultural programs at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Projects inspired and realized through MLN loans, funding, tools and collaborations have resulted in hundreds of notable exhibitions and innovative public programs. These projects, in turn, have led to important changes in many aspects of

museum practice. The MLN has informed not only how exhibits are developed, but also how museums approach the study and interpretation of objects, how they interact with other cultural and educational institutions, and how they serve their communities.

Until the MLN brought them together two years ago, Spelman College Museum of Art Director Andrea Barnwell and the staff at Georgia Public Broadcasting had never met, even though their offices were located barely three miles apart in Atlanta.


Once they sat down to brainstorm, "we had three projects on the table within 15 minutes," Barnwell said. Now under development is a new exhibit that will highlight Atlanta's artistic climate in the 1940s and the paintings of two important Spelman artists, Hale Woodruff and Nancy Elizabeth Prophet. In addition to exhibiting works from Spelman's permanent collection and from other museums, the project will include a public television component based on archival materials gathered in the course of researching the artists' lives and work.

Also, GPB will document not only the artists and art works, but the museum's exhibit development process – including research, conservation and mounting the display, contributing to Spelman's education role within the university. "We have a student population that has rarely thought about things like art conservation or the idea of being a museum curator or director as a career path. Now Spelman students will have a broader vision of the field," Barnwell said.

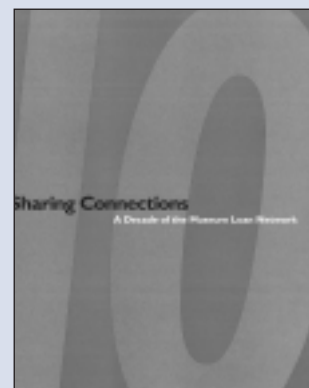
While the museum and the television station represent different disciplines, they share a common goal: engaging audiences and offering new modes of perception and understanding.

Knight President Alberto Ibargüen said, "The Museum Loan Network demonstrates that transformation can occur when the right elements are in place. The discovery of a real need in the museum field, the guidance of Lee Hills' vision, the passion of Stephen Weil, the know-how at MIT, and the tenacity of Lori Gross led to results that make us proud and make thousands of museum users better for their experience."

This article draws upon *Sharing*

Connections: A Decade of the Museum Loan Network. For copies, contact publications@knightfdn.org. More information about the Museum Loan Network is at <http://loanet.mit.edu>. 

MUSEUM LOAN NETWORK NUMBERS AT A GLANCE



Grants awarded: **\$5,800,000**

Museums awarded grants have budgets of:
\$25,000-\$52,000,000

Grants awarded to 247 institutions in 172 cities, in 51 states and territories: **380**

Survey grants awarded: **167**

Travel grants awarded: **123**

Implementation grants awarded: **90**

Population of counties where grants were awarded:
2,600-10,200,000

Objects surveyed: **268,700**

Objects in the MLN Directory: **16,000**

Objects loaned: **4,503**

Institutions affected by MLN in 218 cities in 51 states and territories: **383**

Source: *Sharing Connections: A Decade of the Museum Loan Network*

What the Vice President Taught the ‘Learning Newsroom’

The editor of a Texas newspaper shares how the story that launched a thousand jokes became a test of journalism training.

By Libby Averyt for News@Knight

CORPUS CHRISTI—Through reporter Jaime Powell’s sources, our newspaper was first to report the accidental shooting of Austin lawyer Harry Whittington by Vice President Dick Cheney. But it was because of our newsroom’s dedication to teamwork, personal accountability and commitment to our readers that we presented the national story smoothly, calmly and confidently.

We’ve honed those skills through par-



Front page of Corpus Christi Caller-Times, Feb. 13, 2006.

ticipation in the Learning Newsroom project, sponsored by the American Press Institute and the American Society of Newspaper Editors and funded through a \$1 million grant by Knight Foundation.

This isn’t traditional skills training — no talk of catchier headlines or narrative storytelling. The program’s motto is “leadership training for everyone.” We’ve worked on practices such as communicating more honestly and directly with each other, inviting more voices into conversations about our future and taking more risks in trying to remain relevant to readers. In our case, that has translated

into a more creative newspaper and web site for our readers and a more satisfying work environment for our journalists.

Cheney’s accident proved the program’s effectiveness for us. From the moment Powell’s source, rancher Katharine Armstrong, contacted us on Feb. 12, the skeleton crew working that Sunday took control of the spot news situation. And, perhaps most surprisingly, they did it without our managing editor Shane Fitzgerald or me breathing down their necks.

We broke this national story just days before our final Learning Newsroom training session, which capped off a year of lessons that ranged from conflict resolution to time management.

“I think the [Cheney coverage] has shown the real power of the Learning Newsroom,” said reporter Neal Falgout. “The quick response, the innovations in multimedia, the deliberate approach to covering the story are all hallmarks of the program. Had this story happened two years ago, I think we would have had a much more fragmented reaction directed from the top.”

One of the most beneficial sessions, business literacy, involved the publisher and all senior managers giving details on the business side of newspapering — something newsrooms have ignored for much too long. Today, the newsroom is more knowledgeable on challenges across the entire organization.

“Never before have I seen the impact of a special program take hold of a group and make things happen,” said Ron Ferriby, Caller-Times vice president of production.

I told my staff in the opening session that I didn’t have all the answers for taking newspapers into the future. I needed their help, and as I discovered, all I had to do was ask.

“The Learning Newsroom has been a vehicle for motivation for everyone,” said reporter Nancy Martinez. “From the bottom up, we have gained the confidence to introduce our ideas for change. Managers have been motivated to trust us enough to give those ideas a chance.”

After just a year in the program, it’s

difficult to measure our success with hard numbers, although our online registration has jumped from 94,233 to 197,319 in a year. Staff members say they’ve seen the success through new efforts established by front-line employees, including a peer-to-peer award system and a youth reader advisory committee.

Many employees describe a new energy in the newsroom. A little too touchy-feely for old-school newshounds? Perhaps, but organizations that will rise successfully out of our profession’s transition will be those with staffs that are the most innovative, best able to unleash the full potential of every person on staff and most bonded to each other and their communities.

“I feel it’s no longer ‘them against us’ in the newsroom,” said reporter Fanny Chirinos. “It’s ‘we.’ We’re not the perfect family, but we’re a much happier one. I think, in time, we’ll be even more so.”

Libby Averyt is editor and vice president of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

WHAT IS A ‘LEARNING NEWSROOM’?

Learning Newsroom” is a name given to newsrooms that are testing ways to improve workplace culture and improve staff training and development. Ten newsrooms of all sizes are becoming Learning Newsrooms through a \$1 million, four-year Knight Foundation grant to the American Press Institute in partnership with the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

With the help of consultants, each newsroom identifies ways to improve its journalism. Participating newspapers must also agree to expand their newsroom training plans.

The 10 participating newspapers: The Corpus Christi (Tex.) Caller-Times; The Herald-Times in Bloomington, Ind.; The Asheville (N.C.) Citizen-Times; The Telegraph in Nashua, N.H.; The Hamilton (Ontario) Spectator; The Bakersfield Californian; The Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star; the News Tribune in Tacoma, Wash.; the San Jose Mercury News; and the Herald-Tribune in Sarasota, Fla.

Said Nick Pappas of The (Nashua) Telegraph: “I have become a better manager, a better journalist and maybe a better person. ... Either we change or the market will force change. The latter is more painful.”

Results of the Learning Newsroom’s three-year study will be available in early 2007.

For more, go to: www.learningnewsroom.org.

EDUCATION

The ABCs of Results

A Kent State University study has found that students who participated in Knight Foundation-funded programs at Simon Perkins Middle School in Akron showed significant improvement in grades, school attendance, behavior and self-esteem.

The programs of Perkins Activities Central provide after-school, weekend and summer support for Perkins' middle-school students, focusing on disadvantaged students. So far, Knight has supported agencies working with 275 of Perkins' nearly 800 students.

And that's not all. Knight's \$4 million in funding also supports:

- The Bridge to GRADuation program, which helps Simon Perkins students make a successful transition to high school.
- Project GRAD Akron, whose purpose is increasing high school graduation and preparing students for college.
- The Caring Communities of Summit County, which benefits Simon Perkins students being raised by their grandparents.
- The Akron Summit Community Action, which provides low-income families with financial literacy training, a book club and a math and science program.

"Simon Perkins Middle School is a school in need, but also a school with great potential. We're pleased to partner with Perkins' staff and parents to help these students succeed," said Vivian Celeste Neal, Knight's program director in Akron.

Akron Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Small recognizes that the grants are an investment, not a gift: "Knight Foundation needs to see success. We pledge to do our part by getting parents and community members involved at Perkins Middle School," he said. "When these students succeed, our entire district succeeds."

REPORT FROM THE FIELD

**Students Publish a Newspaper
Their Classmates Want to Read**

By Stacy Slomko for News@Knight

I have been teaching for over 16 years at Perth Amboy High School, an urban school with more than 2,000 students. For years, our students received a multipage newsletter three times a year. The articles were about who made the honor roll, or important upcoming dates. There were no editorials, no pictures, no sports. Nobody read it.

In 2004, I became the newspaper adviser. I wanted to make a newspaper of value and substance. I attended the ASNE Institute, which made a world of difference.

The Institute is an intensive two-week newspaper journalism training program for high school teachers. I learned about newspaper writing, editing, photojournalism and developing opinion pages. I learned about First Amendment matters and the state of press freedom in schools. I absorbed as much information as I could and brought it back to school with me.

In the months that followed, I fought many battles to get the newspaper printed. I persuaded the school to buy software and move the class into a computer lab. My staff of nine students published our first printed issue in October of last year. We handed it out at lunch time and actually saw students reading it! My staff was thrilled: they started talking about teasers and text wrap. Their creative juices were flowing.

Now, the paper is only getting better. The students have experimented with layout models and fonts; they've written stories about issues that go beyond school. The paper is such a hot item that students and staff are now asking why certain things get in the paper and how it is designed. To explain all that, a staff member wrote an article for the spring issue entitled, "Paper Ignorance Resolved."

The newspaper is becoming a true student forum. We studied editorial writing and have looked at ways to get more of the students' opinions involved. In the final issue of the school year, the staff is developing a senior survey, and will publish the results using a pie chart, a Top 10 list and more.

So many students have signed up to take Journalism I next year that they might have to offer another section, and I have at least eight students taking Journalism 2. I know that this is because students are reading the paper and want to be a part of it.

If I had never attended the institute, the newspaper still would be a newsletter. It would still be full of puzzles and nonsense. Now, my journalism students say the paper is what the paper should be. It is a place where students can express their opinions and views about what is important to them. It is entertaining as well as informative. I couldn't agree more.



Stacy Slomko is a teacher at Perth Amboy High School in New Jersey. For more on the American Society of Newspaper Editors Institute, or to read Perth Amboy's paper, Paw Prints, visit www.highschooljournalism.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Forget Tax and Spend;
Try Tax and Save**

Taxes are no longer something many low- and moderate-income residents of Palm Beach are dreading, thanks to Knight-funded support for tax services and financial counseling.

Just ask Cecilia Lupertiga, 48, a single mother of two and Palm Beach County resident. She went to one of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites set up through United Way of Palm Beach County's Prosperity Campaign and funded by a \$3 million grant from Knight.

Since the program was launched in spring 2004, it has grown from 28 to 40 sites. In addition to free tax help, it allows participants to save for new homes by investing their refunds in an Individual Development Account (IDA), which is matched 2:1.

"They did my taxes and as soon as I got my check, I deposited the money," Lupertiga said. Lupertiga opened an IDA account in January 2005 with \$80, added her \$150 tax refund, and started depositing monthly into the account. By September of 2005 she had enough money to start the home-buying process. "I had to cut here and there, and I was able to save \$2,000," Lupertiga said. IDA then matched the \$2,000, giving her a total of \$6,000, which covered closing costs on her new apartment.

After making a few necessary repairs, Lupertiga moved in on April 30. She has been trying to spread the word to her family and friends. "I try to push my daughter and friends to do the same thing," Lupertiga said.

According to the IRS, as of April 20 the United Way of Palm Beach had processed \$14 million in refunds, including \$5.8 million in Earned Income Tax Credits. More than 8,000 residents used the free tax preparation service available at the VITA sites.

In total, Knight has invested more than \$3.5 million in the tax preparation and savings programs in a half-dozen Knight communities, including Biloxi. Despite devastation from Hurricane Katrina, the Biloxi EITC Coalition increased the number of tax returns prepared. By April 17, they e-filed over 1,000 returns, compared to 690 last year.

Partners from Biloxi and Beyond Work Together



Gus Powell for Knight Foundation

East Biloxi, home to many African Americans and Vietnamese immigrants, is a neighborhood that inspires strong loyalties and passions.

Continued from Page 1

corporate leaders. Overseeing Knight's funding is Living Cities, an investor collaborative of major national foundations (Knight is a founding member), financial institutions and a federal agency that works to revitalize inner-city neighborhoods in American cities.

On one side of the equation sit East Biloxi's residents: mostly low-income African Americans and Vietnamese immigrants (see sidebar), many of whom work in the local shrimping industry, which was devastated by the hurricane.

On the other side are the casinos. Since the early 1990s, the casino industry – which had been based on shore-hugging barges – has been a key part of the Gulf Coast's economy. After Katrina, those casinos are reopening on land, and are expected to contribute jobs and opportunity.

"The core challenge is to find a way to accommodate the interest of long-time residents of the area and the importance to the local economy of a strong casino/entertainment industry. Doing this requires a broadly participatory public process," said Gordon Brigham, Gulf Coast consultant for Living Cities, whose work on the Gulf Coast is an expansion of the group's usual work in urban centers.

The planning will be closely integrated with that of Biloxi's new Reviving the Renaissance Committee, formed by Mayor A.J. Holloway to review recommendations for rebuilding the city. More

than 200 residents, business leaders and other key stakeholders are actively involved, meeting almost weekly in a number of subcommittees.

"We're working toward a realistic plan to rebuild Biloxi, including the hard-hit eastern area of our city. Our goal is to have a plan that includes a realistic timetable and a realistic price tag, and a plan that takes into account the views of the diverse population we have here in Biloxi," said Holloway.

Knight's funding is being matched by a \$125,000 contribution from the Mississippi Development Authority. Additional funds will be raised through contributions from the business community. Living Cities and some of its members are providing organizational development assistance at no cost.

Just weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the coast in August 2005, Knight made a \$1 million investment that formed half the funding for the Mississippi Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal. The commission's work – including a series of intensive public design workshops – has resulted in a detailed plan offering more than 200 separate recommendations for rebuilding 11 communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The East Biloxi plan is the next step in this process.

"This project will help ensure that East Biloxi is rebuilt in a manner responsive to residents' needs," said Susan Patterson,

MAKING IMMIGRANTS PART OF THE EQUATION

If Biloxi is going to rebuild the fabric of community, everyone must be included," says Susan Patterson, director of Knight's Community Partners Program. "That doesn't only mean making sure people have a place to sleep and food to eat. It also means making sure everyone has a say and a stake in the new Biloxi that will emerge."


Continuing its commitment to residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast affected by Hurricane Katrina, Knight awarded \$170,000 in grants to grassroots organizations helping immigrants. The recipients of these grants – the Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance, Boat People SOS Inc. and National Alliance of Vietnamese Service Agencies – will use Knight funding to provide and advocate for immigrants in the Biloxi area, particularly the growing Vietnamese and Latino populations.

Each of the groups aspires to help immigrants have an equal voice in the rebuilding process. They are working to navigate the linguistic and cultural differences that can make it difficult for many of these immigrants to participate in the broader community dialogue.

The grants are part of Knight's American Dream Fund, which will invest \$6 million over the next four years to help immigrants become engaged members of society. The fund attempts to ensure that hard-working, tax-paying immigrant families can live the American Dream by achieving economic self-sufficiency and protecting their individual liberty.

So far, the fund has awarded grants to the Knight communities with the largest foreign-born populations or most rapid growth in their immigrant populations. Grants from the fund for other Knight cities and towns are planned by year's end.

Knight Foundation's Community Partners Program director. "And this isn't just good for them. This process can set a standard for how redevelopment should go in the rest of the city and along the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast."

To see and hear more about Knight Foundation's transformational work in Biloxi, visit www.knightfdn.org/annual. 

Bringing Journalism into the 21st Century

Continued from Page 1

And that's what so incredibly exciting about the Knight New Media Center."

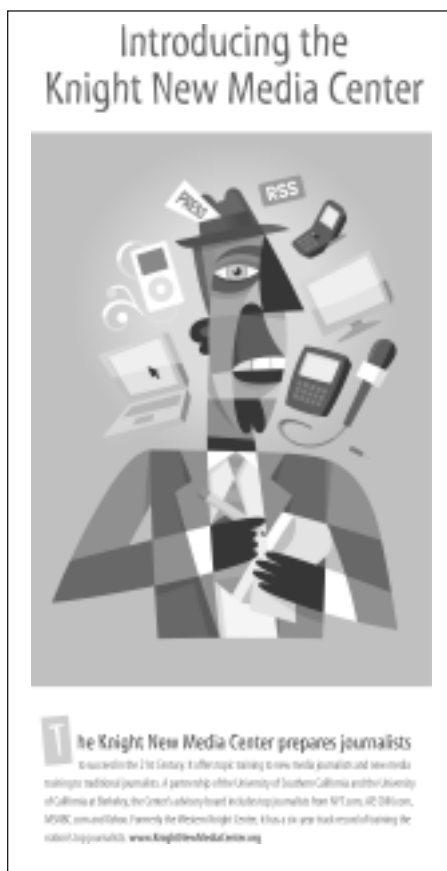
Funded in the first year with \$650,000, the center will be jointly operated by the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California and the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Knight New Media Center aims to fill two major holes in journalism training. First, at UC Berkeley, it will offer free, customized weeklong "boot camps" in multimedia reporting for traditional print and broadcast journalists. Second, at the USC Annenberg School of Communication it will offer free seminars for new media journalists like those working for Gannon to learn how to better cover specialized topics.

"The Knight New Media Center will bridge some very significant gaps in journalism training," said Gannon. "The programs are different but the goals are aligned: Help us all better adapt our skills for the digital world and realize our common goal of journalism excellence."

Commonalities abound between new and traditional news operations. At Yahoo!, Gannon and his team of editors direct news coverage and manage a larger response when a big story breaks. With Hurricane Katrina, for example, the Full Coverage team not only handled Yahoo's front page news coverage of the disaster but also worked to help create message boards, incorporate citizen photojournalism, and worked with the Yahoo! For Good community affairs team to raise more than \$60 million for the American Red Cross and other nongovernmental organizations.

Gannon is joined on the Knight New Media Center's board by other senior digital journalists and scholars who will help guide the center: Neil Chase, deputy editor for news, nytimes.com; Ruth Gersh, director of online services, AP Digital; Chris Jennewein, vice president, Internet operations, The San Diego Union-Tribune; Mary Lou Fulton, vice president/audience development, The Bakersfield Californian; Jennifer



For copies of While You Were Sleeping (pictured above), Knight's brochure outlining the foundation's journalism funding direction, e-mail publications@knightfdn.org.

Sizemore, managing editor, MSNBC.com; Mitch Gelman, senior vice president and executive producer, CNN.com; Bruce Koon, executive news editor, Knight Ridder Digital; Adam Clayton Powell III, director, USC Integrated Media Systems Center; Dan Gillmor, director, Center for Citizen Media, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism; and Paul Saffo, director, Institute for the Future.

"The Knight New Media Center will prepare journalists to succeed in the 21st century," said Eric Newton, Knight's director of journalism initiatives at the Seattle convention. "This initial grant is made in anticipation of great achievements and of even greater grants in the future."


While the grant marks the acceleration of the foundation's funding in new media, Newton also noted that Knight Foundation remains the nation's largest journalism

funder overall, investing \$25 million a year in a broad range of journalism education and training, press freedom and freedom of information projects.

The center is the successor to the Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, which provided workshops for the past six years on specialized topics for hundreds of working journalists.

Vikki Porter, the former editor and reporter who directed the Western Knight Center, is serving as the new center's director and will direct the topical seminar programming. She is based at USC Annenberg. Veteran journalist and former Western Knight Center associate director Lanita Pace-Hinton will direct the center's multimedia training from UC Berkeley.

"The Western Knight Center's record of attracting and training the nation's top journalists has shown that training changes what journalists do and influences the quality of the news they report. We are proud of that," said Geoffrey Cowan, dean of the USC Annenberg School for Communication. "But we are prouder still that we are changing. This is not a time for business as usual. Thanks to our great directors and our partnership with Knight Foundation and news organizations across the country, we will continue to be in the forefront of the effort to improve journalism nationwide."

More information about the Knight New Media Center may be found online at www.knightnewmediacenter.org. 

TECHNOLOGY: FRIEND OR FOE?

Joel Pett, Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist of the Lexington Herald-Leader, found himself reliving his own relationship to emerging technology and new media when Knight Foundation commissioned him to draw the cover illustration.

For years, he says, "I was super proud of the low-tech nature of cartoons – paper and ink, unchanged for zillions of years. But as soon as I realized that Photoshop would liberate me from white-out and the Mac would liberate me from the office, I changed my tune."

He added: "Now I know just enough to be dangerous."

New Knight Chair In Sports Journalism Named



Award-winning sports journalist Malcolm Moran has been named the first Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and

Society at the College of Communications at Penn State. With over 30 years of experience, including work at USA Today, The New York Times, Newsday and the Chicago Tribune, Moran "brings to his position a wealth of professional experience and a cerebral approach to the issues facing sports journalism," said Doug Anderson, dean of the Penn State College of Communications, which received a \$1.5 million endowment for the chair from Knight Foundation.

"The message I am here to deliver is that while competitive issues are intensified by new forms of media that attempt to rewrite the rules, the need for standards and perspective has never been so great," said Moran, who will also serve as director of Penn State's Center for Sports Journalism.

The Center explores issues and tracks trends in sports journalism through instruction, programs and research.

"Never has the temptation of risk-taking in pursuit of the big story been greater than it is in the shrill, niche-seeking environment of competing Internet sites, chat rooms and talk radio," said Moran. "But the good news I hope to communicate is that effective, responsible deadline writers are made more often than they are born."

Moran has won many of sports journalism's biggest honors, including induction in 2005 into the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame. He was instrumental in The New York Times' decision to include graduation rates when compiling preseason rankings in football and basketball. Moran's appointment as Knight Chair begins this fall.

"We hope this high-profile teaching post will spur interest in sports' larger role in society," said Alberto Ibarguen, president of Knight Foundation.

The foundation has endowed 19 Knight Chairs in various journalism disciplines, at universities across the country.

Detroit Grantee Honored For Community Development



Fabrizio Constantin for Knight Foundation

Focus: HOPE staff celebrate their award. From left to right, Keith W. Cooley, CEO; Debbie Fisher, manager, community development; Mary Simpson, Americorps member; and Laura Bozgo, community development specialist.

Focus: HOPE, a civil- and human-rights organization in Detroit funded by Knight, has received the Outstanding Community Impact Award from the Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning at the University of Michigan.

Knight Foundation has funded Focus: HOPE's efforts to revitalize the neighborhood around the organization's 40-acre campus in Detroit. The ultimate goal is to turn the area

surrounding Focus: HOPE into a community where people choose to move, with a diversity of incomes, races and ages. The neighborhood has a number of assets to build on: decent schools, a good mix of renters and homeowners, and community stakeholders involved in the revitalization efforts.

Since its inception in 1968, Focus: HOPE has used economic opportunity as its definition of civil rights.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



focus on the transformational, to support those people and programs that will make our communities and journalism evolve successfully," wrote Knight Chairman W. Gerald Austen, M.D., and President Alberto Ibarguen in an introduction.

This year's report also features a multimedia complement: audio slide shows that take you further inside the work of our grantees and the foundation, and document the big ideas and big opportunities we believe can make a difference.

To view the slide shows or request a copy of the annual report, visit www.knightfdn.org/annual.

Knight Foundation's 2005 annual report offers photo essays highlighting the transformational work of some of our grantees, including efforts to develop citizen journalism projects, to create a blueprint for rebuilding the Mississippi Gulf Coast and to revitalize a Macon neighborhood.

"We continue to challenge ourselves to look beyond the merely good and

First Lady Fetes Group Working To Keep Kids in School

For most of its 30-year history, Knight grantee Communities in Schools has held its May board of directors meeting in Washington, D.C. This year, the annual dinner was preceded by a reception at the White House, hosted by First Lady Laura Bush.

CIS was honored by Mrs. Bush for its work serving students who are most at risk of dropping out of school. Mrs. Bush has been a self-proclaimed fan of CIS since her years in Texas, where the group is one of the largest working to help children remain in

school. "Communities in Schools creates a safety net for young people, connecting local schools with needed community resources to help kids stay in school, graduate and prepare for life," Mrs. Bush has said.

Knight has helped fund Communities in Schools and its local affiliates for the last 10 years.

CIS's network reaches more than two million elementary, middle and high school students in 28 states. Knight Foundation has worked closely with CIS to re-examine its expanding network structure.

ARRIVALS



Suzanna Valdez has joined Knight Foundation as program director for Miami. Valdez has worked in the public sector,

including stints with the Clinton-Gore transition team and the Clinton Administration. In the private sector, she worked most recently at the Task Force on Television Measurement. She's a graduate of the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Tex., and holds an MPA from Columbia University.



Michael Pate has joined Knight Foundation as program director for Tallahassee. Pate was the president and publisher

of the Tallahassee Democrat, and chair of Knight's local community advisory committee. Pate is also past chair for the Community Foundation of North Florida and a member of the board of trustees for the Florida State University Foundation. He is a graduate of Florida State University.



Laura L. Williams is Knight's new program director for Lexington. Williams previously spent a decade with The Council of

State Governments, most recently holding the dual positions of deputy director and director of communications. At the council, she oversaw efforts to help state governments identify national trends impacting their work and to improve their decision-making and leadership skills. A Kentucky native, Williams graduated from the University of Kentucky.



Matthew Bergheiser, an experienced professional in urban and business redevelopment, has joined Knight

Foundation as program director for Philadelphia. Most recently, Bergheiser served as executive director of Trenton Downtown Association, which uses the arts to fuel downtown redevelopment. Previously, he was executive vice president at the Enterprise Center in Philadelphia, where he worked to stimulate business opportunities in the city's distressed urban communities. Bergheiser is a graduate of Princeton University and holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.



Lia Martinez has joined Knight as accounting manager. Previously, she was fund accountant for Dimension Capital

Management. Martinez has also worked at Kaufman, Rossin & Co. and Answerthink Consulting Group, both in Miami. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in taxation, both from Florida International University.



Beverly Jemmott has joined Knight as investment/accounting assistant. Previously, Jemmott worked for Broward County

as an administrative coordinator, as well as at Arthur Andersen and Knight Ridder.

PROMOTIONS



Julie Tarr has been promoted to evaluation director, and will also continue to serve as program director for State College.

She joined the foundation in October 2001 as program officer for State College and Philadelphia. Tarr was formerly an associate director for the Center for Early Education Research at Rutgers University, and has worked for the cities of New York and Chicago in housing and community development. She holds a doctorate in educational administration from Rutgers University Graduate School of Education, a master's in urban

planning and a bachelor's in arts from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Elena Stetsenko was promoted to controller in April 2006. Stetsenko joined the foundation in July 2004 as an accounting

manager. She became a certified public accountant in 2003, and has her master's and bachelor's degrees from Florida International University. Prior to joining Knight, she worked as a lead auditor and accounts representative.

DEPARTURES

Suzette Harvey, program director for Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, has left the foundation. Harvey joined Knight in 1998 as a program associate in the arts and culture program. When Knight's Community Partners Program was established in 2001, she began working in community development, civic engagement and youth development, and became a fixture in Miami's Overtown and East Little Havana neighborhoods.

Julie K. Kohler, interim director of the National Venture Fund, has left the foundation. She joined Knight in 2002 as a content program officer for children and families. She joined the Venture Fund staff as program officer in 2004 and was promoted to interim director in 2005. She helped guide the program's funding in the areas of voting reform and immigration.

Linda Fitzgerald, deputy director of the Community Partners Program, has left Knight. She joined the foundation in 2002, overseeing the grant-making process in Knight communities and providing leadership and guidance for regional program directors. In 2005, she added to her duties and became program director for Myrtle Beach and Columbia.

Virginia Mojica, investment assistant, resigned after four years with the foundation. She joined Knight as accounting assistant in 2002.

Gloria Lopez resigned as the foundation's controller. Lopez joined Knight in September 2004.

FIRST QUARTER 2006 GRANTS*

Program	Grants	Amount
Community Partners	4	\$ 1,600,000
Journalism Initiatives	3	1,030,000
National Venture Fund	0	0
Special Grants	4	40,000
Total	11	\$ 2,670,000

*Grants approved or ratified by the board from Jan. 1, 2006, through March 14, 2006.



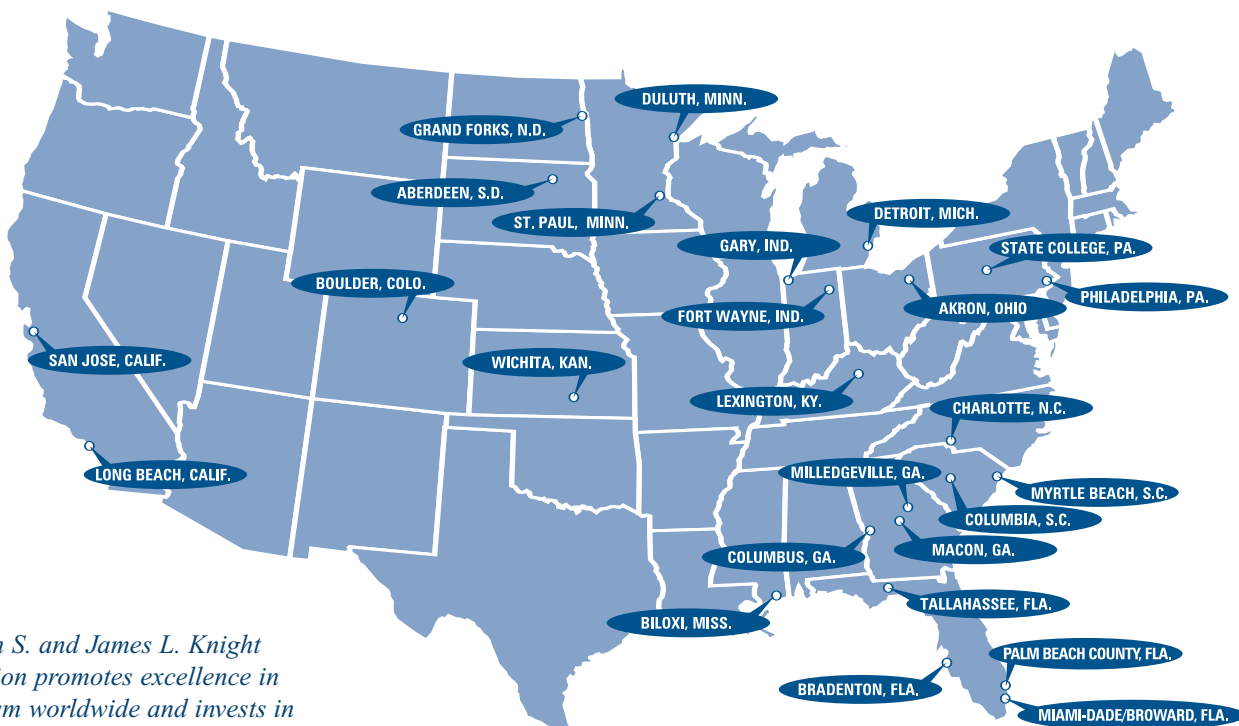
John S. and James L.

Knight Foundation

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